CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

one or more voicemail system components that employ an internet protocol network to store or access one or more voicemail messages on one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail system components are coupled with the one or more storage devices through the internet protocol network.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a voicemail system component, of the one or more voicemail system components, employs an address of a location on a storage device, of the one or more storage devices, to store or access a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein a storage device of the one or more storage devices employs an address of a location on a voicemail system component of the one or more voicemail system components to identify a voice mailbox on the voicemail system component;

wherein the voice mailbox corresponds to a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, that is located on the storage device.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail system components comprise a plurality of voicemail system components, wherein the one or more storage devices comprise a plurality of file servers;

wherein a first voicemail system component of the plurality of voicemail system components employs the internet protocol network to store and access a first voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on a file server of the plurality of file servers;

wherein a second voicemail system component of the plurality of voicemail system components employs the internet protocol network to store and access a second voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on a file server of the plurality of file servers.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more voicemail system components employ the internet protocol network to any one or more of store, modify, retrieve, forward, and delete the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more storage devices.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail messages are located on the one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail system components comprise one or more pointers to the one or more voicemail messages.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more voicemail system components comprise a first voice mailbox and a second voice mailbox;

wherein the first voice mailbox comprises an address of a location on a storage device, of the one or more storage devices;

wherein the second voice mailbox comprises the address; and

wherein the address is employable by one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein upon modification of the voicemail message to comprise a modified voicemail message, the address serves to allow access to the modified voicemail message from the first and second voice mailboxes through employment of the address.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more voicemail system components comprise one or more voice mailboxes that comprise one or more linked lists;

wherein the one or more linked lists comprise one or more addresses of one or more locations on one or more of the one or more storage devices; and

wherein one or more of the one or more voicemail system components employ one or more of the one or more linked lists to access one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on one or more of the one or more storage devices.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the one or more of the one or more linked lists comprise one or more encryption keys that serve to allow access to the one or more of the one of more voicemail messages.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein one or more of the one or more storage devices comprise one or more linked lists that are associated with one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more of the one or more storage devices;

wherein the one or more linked lists comprise one or more addresses of one or more locations on one or more of the one or more voicemail system components;

wherein the one or more locations correspond to one or more voice mailboxes on the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components; and

wherein the one or more voice mailboxes are associated with one or more intended recipients of the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a storage device of the one or more of the one or more storage devices serves to delete a voicemail message of the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages upon deletion of a reference to the voicemail message from each of the one or more voice mailboxes.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein forwarding of a voicemail message of the one or more voicemail messages from a first voice mailbox to a second voice mailbox on the one or more voicemail system components comprises copying of an address of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox.

14. A method, comprising the step of:

copying an address of a voicemail message on a second voice mailbox, on a second voicemail system component, from a first voice mailbox, on a first voicemail system component, to move an association with a user from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first and second voicemail system components are coupled with a storage device through an internet protocol network, wherein the step of copying the address of the voicemail message on the second voice mailbox comprises the step of:

changing on the storage device a correspondence of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox.

16. An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for copying an address of a voicemail message on a second voice mailbox, on a second voicemail system component, from a first voice mailbox, on a first voicemail system component, to move an association with a user from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox.

17. The article of claim 16, wherein the first and second voicemail system components are coupled with a storage device through an internet protocol network, wherein the means in the medium for copying the address of the voicemail message on the second voice mailbox comprises:

means in the medium for changing on the storage device a correspondence of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox.

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